



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-2153)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby and Commissioner Rita Hall

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (12-1651)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the May 9, 2012 Minutes. (12-1958)

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio, the minutes of May 9, 2012 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
 - Department of Auditor-Controller
 - Department of Children and Family Services
 - Internal Services Department
 - Department of Mental Health

- Probation Department
- Sheriff's Department (12-1819)

Auditor-Controller (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, Auditor Controller, Group Home Ombudsman introduced herself to the Commission as the new Group Home Ombudsman. She stated that she had no statistical report; however, she is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported child abuse allegations in the following categories:

- General Neglect- 11 referrals, 3 closed, 8 open
- Physical Abuse -9 referrals, 6 closed, 7 open
- Emotional Abuse- 1 referral under investigation
- General Neglect -3 referrals, unfounded
- Physical Abuse -3 referrals, unfounded
- Sexual Abuse -2 referrals, evaluated out
- Inconclusive -2 referrals, 1 Sexual Abuse, 1 Physical Abuse

Presenting a follow-up report on Mozell Pennington Boys Center, Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez stated the DCFS reviewed the last report and found similar situations that led to the corrective actions that were imposed on the Group Home. On the question of Needs and Service Plans (NSP), Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez confirmed that Title 22 stipulates that NSPs should be readily available where the kids physically reside.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Mr. William Kiriya, Manager II, Maintenance Operations Division, Internal Service Department (ISD) reported that the funds for the girls Special Handling Unit (SHU) at Los Padinos are still pending. However, the main concern for the SHU is the ceiling tiles. Additionally, ISD has received an estimate of \$80,000 to replace floor and is expecting an estimate for the paint. Further, Mr. Kiriya answered questions posed by the Commission.

Commissioner Hall expressed concern regarding the findings when she visited the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station with Commissioner Grills.

They both observed the floor in one of the cells was in poor condition. Although ISD has performed an inspection and submitted an estimate, no repairs have been made. Commander Warren Asmus of the Sheriff's Department will follow-up.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Mr. Paul McIver, LCSW, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management and Program Administration, Department of Mental Health (DMH), reported that in late April thru May 7, 2012, the Legislative Budget Committee rejected the Governor's proposal to delete the supplemental funds for Community Treatment Facilities (CTF) and decided to retain the funds so that CTF can continue to operate. Mr. McIver further reported that DMH is in the process of creating and putting in place a contingency plan in the event that alternative placement is needed for the adolescents that are currently in the program. He will provide a copy of the contingency plan to the Commission prior to the June 20, 2012 meeting.

Additionally, he stated that providers understand their expectations and know that if the Governor deletes the funds the following consequences may occur:

- Facilities may have to close
- The Board of Supervisors may have to approve the County to pay the full cost of care.

Further, Mr. McIver stated that DMH and Special Education in Public Schools have partnered for many years in dealing with the AB 3632 program and is scheduled to terminate the residential placement of children with emotional disabilities on June 30, 2012. Currently, there are approximately 550 children in residential placement, 100 reside in Los Angeles County and the remaining in different Counties/States. He also stated that during Fiscal Year July 2011-12 the school district has been paying the County for room and board cost and Mental Health has been paying for mental health services. However, as of July 1, 2012, the County will no longer fund the program and the funding will be left up to the school districts. This transition will result in increased filings by DCFS and increased/prolonged detentions in Juvenile Hall over the next few years.

Probation Department (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Acting Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the

Probation Department (PD), reported on the status of Absent With Out Leave (AWOL) incidents for the month of April 2012 as follows:

- 98 AWOL involving 80 youth
- 43 remain AWOL
- 15 have been returned to Group Homes (GH)
- 17 are in Juvenile Hall (JH)
- 1 HOP
- 1 was terminated
- 3 replace on a suitable placement order
- 13 outstanding AWOL, 8 remain detained in JH, 3 received camp orders, 1 received replacement

Additionally, she reported that Rite of Passage, an out of state Group Home, has been placed on a temporary hold as a result of the incident that involved 3 workers using force on a male youth. The youth composed an 11- page letter regarding the incident. Staff involved have been suspended until the May 29, 2012 review conference.

Further, she reported the investigation for April 2012 as follows:

- 10 investigations, 6 child abuse, 1 unfounded, 5 pending, 2 of the remaining 4 unfounded, 2 pending,
- 14 monitoring in various stages, 6 in progress, 8 in various stages of approval, 2 will be posted
- 71 permanency cases, 58 male, 13 female,
- 5 cases of prospective adoption
- 10 perspective legal guardianship
- 1 immediate recruitment

She concluded by reporting 45 of the 71 cases (63.38%) have prior DCFS history and answered questions posed by the Commission.

Sheriff Department

Commander Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department, distributed handouts which summarized demographics of the jail population. Mr. Asmus also reported the number of inmate assaults on staff has decreased and the department is working on installing more cameras and educating staff on becoming more alert. Additionally, he reported on the closure of courtrooms and indicated that additional cuts are anticipated in September 2012, which may result in the closure of courthouses. He also mentioned that AB109 allows the Sheriffs in closed courtrooms to

be reassigned to other courtrooms.

Commissioner Hall advised Commander Asmus that also during their visit to the South Los Angeles Sheriffs Station they noticed a phone in one of the cells that was improperly placed, posing a hazard to inmates.

Commander Asmus will follow-up.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on Various items for May 16, 2012. (12-2130)

Chairperson Montano shared the following articles with the Commissioners:

Los Angeles Times:

- Retired Superiors Tell Of Violence By Jail Officers (May 15, 2012)
- Witnesses Describe Violence By Jail Deputies (May 15, 2012)
- Who's Running the Jails (May 16, 2012)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for May 16, 2012. (12-2146)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$601.58.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for May 16, 2012. (12-2147)

Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa reported that staff have been working with the Third District for the Sybil Brand Commission Institutional Inspections Scholarship Awards Reception and the Board has confirmed the date for the scroll presentation as June 26, 2012. She also stated that the request has been made in the amount of \$300.00 for the Board to provide a continental breakfast and asked that the Commission confirm the number of invitees. The Commissioners concluded that scholarship recipients should be afforded the opportunity to bring 2 guest each to the awards breakfast.

Following discussion, the Commission requested that the Sybil Brand Conference Room 372 be made available on May 24, 2012 to allow the Review Committee time to score and select the 2 scholarship winners.

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6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on May 16, 2012. (12-2148)

There was no report given.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from May 10, 2012 to May 15, 2012. (12-2149)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montano visited Santa Clarita Branch on May 14, 2012.**
- **Chairperson Montano visited Los Angeles Youth Network - 26 #1, on May 15, 2012.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited Altadena Sheriff Station on May 10, 2012.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hall visited Phoenix House LA - 35 #3, on May 15, 2012.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

8. The Probation Department's role in providing permanent placement for Probation youth. (Continued from the meeting of April 18, 2012) (12-1524)

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director, Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance reported to the Commission, via email, on the issue raised regarding the Probation Department's role in providing permanent placement for Foster youth. She reported that the Department is instrumental in providing family finding efforts/searches, adoptions and legal guardianships. Since 2006 to present the Department has completed two adoptions, assisted two counties in finalizing adoptions, successfully obtained five court orders for Media-Based Recruitment, featured three children on "Good Day LA", and completed 11 Legal Guardianships.

Additionally, her report indicated that on March 17, 2012, after four years of diligent effort on Probation's part, Probation finally received approval from the State to contract with Family Foster Agencies (FFA) for Probation youth. Further, Probation has partnered with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in their efforts and they are currently assisting in two ways to promote permanency:

- **Recruiting adoptive families for our youth thru media and recruitment events and the Diligent Recruitment Grant.**
- **Currently revising the FFA SOW to include probation youth and allow youth to go to foster homes instead of Group Homes when they do not need such a structured environment.**

Finally, the report states that there will be an informational meeting for the FFA regarding Probation foster youth on Friday, May 18, 2012; Probation is requesting letters of interest.

- 9.** The Probation Department 's role/cooperation in providing recreational field trips for Probation youth and releasing them to their mentors. (Continued from the meeting of April 18, 2012) (12-1525)

Also in the email report, Ms. Campbell-Motton, expressed that Probation strongly encourages recreational outings for youth with the Group Home (GH) staff and their mentors. The consequences for GH failing to comply include the issuance of a citation; and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is required if reported by youth. However, youth with the following conditions are not allowed to participate in recreational outings:

- Youth is not stable in the GH program due to behavioral or mental health issues**
- Criminal history that would pose a serious threat to the community**

To address the concern raised at the previous business meeting, Ms. Campbell-Motton clarified that the youth in question was not allowed a recreational outing with his mentor because he was a sex offender and not allowed off the grounds. However, she is currently looking into why the DPO would not provide a reason for the denial to the GH Administrator.

- 10.** The Impact of Group Homes/Facilities closures on Probation youth. (Continued from the meeting of April 18, 2012) (12-1569)

Ms. Campbell- Motten reported that the closure of some GHs has been beneficial to youth and has provided increased safety and stability. GHs that were closed were unsafe and not producing positive outcomes for youth. However, the youth that had to be displaced were placed as close to home as possible and were taken straight to the GH to avoid being traumatized from going to Juvenile Hall. Additionally, she stated that many youth are able to remain at the same location since only one or two sites were closed because they didn't have enough youth to fill the beds.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-2150)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission (12-2151)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of May 16, 2012. (12-2152)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.